

On the Habits of the Mungoos (Herpestes griseus).

By Lieut. PEGUS.

In this communication the author gives an account of a combat which he witnessed at Pondicherry, between a Mungoos and a Cobra (*Naja tripudians*). The snake was brought in a trap to the Travellers' Bungalow, which is enclosed by stone walls, and on being liberated and seeing the Mungoos it endeavoured to make its escape. The latter, however, attacked it immediately with much fury, and a battle ensued, which lasted about five minutes, when the snake was observed to dart upon its assailant and wound it with its fangs.

The Mungoos on this rolled over and lay for some little time as if dead, with a black foam at its mouth; it then suddenly started up and darted off into the bush. In about twenty minutes it returned, when the mouth was observed to be marked with green from some herb it had been eating. It appeared quite recovered, and immediately attacked the snake with even more fury than before. This combat lasted about six minutes, when the Mungoos got the snake by the neck, killed it, and severed its head from its body. The snake was upwards of five feet long.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* July 27, 1852.

VIOLA LACTEA.—[*Edinb. Cat.*]

The following may be added to the list of unrecorded localities for the *Viola lactea*: Mayals Green, Gower, Glamorganshire.

Mayals, May 24th.

CAROLINE CATHERINE LUCAS.

On some Varieties of Land Shells from the South of France.

By J. PAGET.

Since my former communication* I have discovered another hairy *Helix*, which in every other respect resembles the *H. Carthusiana* of Draparnaud, or the *H. Cantiana* of English authors. I met with several specimens of this shell dead, last autumn, on some wet meadows near the Pont du Var, Nice, but did not remark any peculiarity about them. On observing however the other day a young *Helix* which I had found in some irrigated gardens near the town, and which I had taken for a young *Carthusiana*, to be thickly covered with very short hairs, I examined the adult specimens with more care, and found on each of the six I possess, portions of the hairs still remaining. I leave others to decide the value of this character in the determination of the species, but I would call the attention of English conchologists to a careful examination of their specimens of *H. Cantiana* from Cambridgeshire, in which I think it is not impossible that the same peculiarity may be observed.

Herr Adolph Schmidt inquires, in the 'Zeitschrift für Malacozoologie,' if the *H. depilata* is not hairy when young. I have always found it so when young, and generally more or less so when adult and living, but, like many other Helices, it easily loses both hairs and epidermis after the death of the animal.

Nice, May 22.

* See p. 454.